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SUBJECT: UNAMI DONOR MEETING IN KUWAIT HIGHLIGHTS UN PROGRAMS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ

1. Summary: During a meeting of donor and neighboring countries to Iraq organized by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), EmbOffs heard about the various programs run by the UN, with a specific focus on the activities being carried out by UN agencies in southern Iraq. While the UN representatives encouraged donor countries to give more money, specifically to the UN Trust Fund for Iraq, they also pointed out that what was needed was better contacts and cooperation with the new Iraqi administration. In attendance were representatives from over ten donor countries and neighboring countries, and the UNAMI organizers suggested turning the briefing into a regular monthly meeting in Kuwait. One issue raised by the UNAMI organizers was whether the UNAMI work should be targeted to specific regions or areas in Iraq, or spread evenly throughout the entire country. End Summary.

UN Holds Meeting to Describe Assistance Projects

2. By invitation from UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Moez Doraid, Econ Counselor and Officer attended a meeting at the UN compound in Kuwait on July 2 convened "to highlight the UN humanitarian and reconstruction operations in Iraq." Representatives from the embassies and missions of donor countries and neighboring countries to Iraq were invited, with about twenty people total in attendance. The UK, France, Australia, Denmark, Japan, India, and Iran were among the countries represented. The GOK was represented by a Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff member. As Doraid explained at the outset, the purpose of the meeting was to explain to donor and neighboring countries how the various UN agencies were providing assistance in Iraq.

Clusters: UN Gets More Focused on Iraq Assistance

3. Daniel Ruiz of UNAMI and Robert Goodwin of UN-Habitat described the UN's new "Cluster Model for Iraq", which is designed to focus assistance to Iraq by sector and need instead of by which UN agency can provide the assistance. The seven clusters, and the agencies that would contribute to their objectives, are as follow:

- Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management : FAO, UNDP, WFP
- Education and Culture : UNESCO, UNICEF
- Electoral Assistance (to be completed by 12/31/05)
- Governance and Human Development : UNDP, HRO
- Health and Nutrition : WHO, UNICEF
- Infrastructure Rehabilitation : UNICEF, HABITAT
- Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions : UNHCR, IOM

Each cluster has a coordinator appointed by the lead agency as well as a full-time Cluster Assistant.

Capsule Descriptions of Activities by UN Agencies

4. Following Ruiz's description of the new cluster model, representatives from a number of UN agencies gave very brief presentations on their specific agency's activities in Iraq. Maman Sidikou of UNICEF explained that his agency's current focus is on secondary and higher education, with the goal being the strengthening of education at all levels while preserving the cultural heritage of Iraq. The UNDP's representative described that agency's 2004 Iraq Living Conditions Survey (see <http://www.iq.undp.org/ilcs.htm>), which found that 1.5 million Iraqi households were still without proper sanitation, among other findings. Kannan Nadar of UNICEF ran through its involvement in the various clusters, including work on health and nutrition, learning and development, and water and sanitation. The UNHCR's representative explained that the problems it sees include a lack of shelter and documentation, lack of employment opportunities and hostility from local communities. Robert Goodwin of UN HABITAT said that his agency's assistance was a mix of about 25% technical assistance and 75% direct housing rehabilitation assistance. An additional 1.6 million housing

units are needed, he said, adding that his agency's housing projects are creating thousands of jobs throughout Iraq. Ugo Bot of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) explained that his agency's main tasks include migration management support, property claims assistance, and recruitment of professional Iraqi expats to come back to Iraq and provide reconstruction assistance. He added that most of the internally displaced persons in Iraq are centered around the marsh areas and the Iraq-Iran border in the south. (For the full presentations and other material from this meeting, please see <http://www.undp-kuwait.org/downloads/undonors.htm>)

Looking Ahead: Monthly Meetings, More Donor Input

15. Looking ahead, Daniel Ruiz of UNAMI said that until the new Iraqi government was fully able to coordinate reconstruction and assistance activities itself, UNAMI would continue to play that role and would try to better coordinate and facilitate the activities of other aid agencies as well. He specifically asked for assistance in developing an information management system to track reconstruction assistance efforts in the south, a project which currently needs \$200,000 in additional funding. He also said that security of UN personnel in Iraq remained a major concern of the UN Secretariat and that Kuwait would therefore remain, for the time being, the logistical base for UNAMI. He closed by asking donor countries to think about and provide input on how UN aid should be deployed in Iraq, and whether it should be spread around the whole country or more narrowly focused. The sessions's organizers suggested that this meeting of donor and neighboring country representatives could be a useful monthly gathering. They said they would put together a proposal for the group's consideration.

16. Basra minimize considered.

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